

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 042050Z JUN 75  
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1152  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
USDAO LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 179

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT MOPS POC NATO  
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION PLANNED BY SAO MIGUEL FARMERS TO  
COINCIDE WITH NATO FLEET VISIT

REF: PONTA DELGADA 174

1. AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION FOR PONTA DELGADA DISTRICT  
HAS CALLED DEMONSTRATION 1400 HOURS ON JUNE 6 TO PROTEST  
NEW LISBON PRICE POLICY FOR MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.  
IMMEDIATE TARGET DEMONSTRATION IS MDP RPT MDP DISTRICT CIVIL  
GOVERNOR ANTONIO BORGES COURTHO. WE HAVE HEARD CONFLICTING  
REPORTS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL PROHIBIT  
DEMONSTRATION, HOWEVER, POLICE CHIEF AND OTHERS BELIEVE  
THERE IS NOT WAY STOP IT. ASSOCIATION HAS ASKED FOR SUPPORT  
FROM LOCAL MERCHANTS AND POLICE CHIEF EXPECTS SHOPS TO  
CLOSE IN SYMPATHY. HE DOES NOT HAVE MEN NECESSARY STOP OR  
CONTROL DEMONSTRATORS AND WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO, BUT HE  
EXPECTS NO VIOLENCE.

2. FIVE NATO SHIPS, INCLUDING USS McDONELL, ARE SCHEDULED  
ARRIVE PONTA DELGADA SAME DAY AT 0800 AND STAY ABOUT TWENTY  
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HOURS. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS OF POSSIBLE LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION

AGAINST NATO VISIT, BUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY  
OF ANY SIGNIFICANT LEFTIST ACTION.

3. COINCIDENTLY, MOST TOP LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL BE OUT OF TOWN JUNE 6. MILITARY GOVERNOR WILL BE AT LAJES WITH VISITING MEMBER SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; CIVIL GOVERNOR PLANS LEAVE FOR LISBON JUNE 5 (ALLEGEDLY TO AVOID DEMONSTRATION) AND PRESIDENT OF DISTRICTS TOP ADMINISTRATIVE BODY ALSO PLANS GO TO LISBON JUNE 5. IN ADDITION, AT TIME OF DEMONSTRATION NAVAL COMMANDER FOR AZORES AND MILITARY GOVERNOR CHIEF OF STAFF WILL BE ENTERTAINING NATO SHIPS CAPTAINS IN FURNAS, SEVENTY MINUTES DRIVE FROM PONTA DELGADA BY CAR.

4. COMMENT: WE SLIGHTLY PUZZLED BY RELAXED ATTITUDE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TOWARD EVENTS JUNE 6. NAVAL COMMANDER SEES NO REASON CANCEL SHORE LEAVE FOR NATO CREWS, BUT POLICE CHIEF LESS SURE. FARMER DEMONSTRATION, WHICH MAY DRAW AS MANY AS THOUSAND, WILL NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD USG OR NATO , AND LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION, IF IT OCCURS, LIKELY TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. HOWEVER, APPARENTLY INADEQUATE CONTROL OF LARGE NUMBERS DEMONSTRATORS COULD LEAD TO ACCIDENTAL INCIDENT./ AT MINIMUMMMMMN, NATO CREWS SHOULD BE URGED STAY AWAY FROM PLANNED SITE DEMONSTRATION.

5. WE HAVE NO REASONS BELIEVE FLA WILL TRY ANYTHING ON JUNE 6, BUT CANNOT HELP NOTING THAT SITUATION (ABSENCE TOP LOCAL OFFICIALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS) WOULD BE IDEAL FOR HATCHING PLOT.

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